

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 78

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6—Relative to unmanned aircraft systems.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 15, 2013.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 6, Fox. Unmanned aircraft systems.

Existing federal law, the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, provides for the integration of civil unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system by September 30, 2015. Existing federal law requires the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to develop and implement operational and certification requirements for the operation of public unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system by December 31, 2015.

This measure would request the Federal Aviation Administration to consider California as one of the 6 planned test sites for unmanned aircraft systems and integration of those systems into the next generation air transportation system.

WHEREAS, For more than five decades, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has compiled a proven track record of safely introducing new technology and aircraft into the national airspace system; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, the FAA has been working to ensure the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly known as drones, into the national airspace system, with the focus being on safety for the nation's communities; and

WHEREAS, On February 14, 2012, President Obama signed into law the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, which, among other things, requires the FAA to designate six sites throughout the United States as unmanned aircraft system test sites in order to safely integrate unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system; and

WHEREAS, Unmanned aircraft systems are not currently authorized in Class B airspace, which is airspace over most major urban areas, and which contains the highest density of manned aircraft in the national airspace system; and

WHEREAS, Unmanned aircraft systems perform port surveillance for the United States Department of Homeland Security, assist with scientific research and environmental monitoring for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and perform valuable roles in conducting research,

firefighting efforts, disaster relief, humanitarian efforts, search and rescue, law enforcement, military training, testing, and evaluation, and in other areas; and

WHEREAS, Unmanned aircraft represent one of the fastest growing segments of the aerospace industry, which is a vital part of California's economy; and

WHEREAS, A study conducted by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International indicates that the industry has the potential to create 100,000 manufacturing jobs in the provision of unmanned aircraft in the top two largest markets, namely agriculture and public safety; and

WHEREAS, The designation and operation of test sites will be a tool for testing all aspects of unmanned aircraft systems and will allow for the integration into the next generation air transportation system; and

WHEREAS, Test sites will determine the safe designation of airspace for integrated manned and unmanned flight operation in the national airspace system, coordinate and leverage the resources of NASA and the Department of Defense, address civil and public unmanned aircraft systems, ensure the safety of unmanned aircraft systems and related navigation procedures before those systems are integrated into the national airspace system, and create certification standards and air traffic requirements for unmanned flight operations; and

WHEREAS, Once enabled, commercial unmanned aircraft system markets will develop new markets and more efficient applications, with a prediction by the FAA of roughly 10,000 active commercial unmanned aircraft systems to be developed in five years; and

WHEREAS, California has a long and successful history with the aerospace community, from the development of the space shuttle to the Mars rover, with hundreds of small-, medium-, and larger-sized companies, such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrup Grumman, Raytheon, and General Atomics, involved with the technology that millions of individuals benefit from daily, while fostering a rich environment of technology and hardware for the aerospace industry; and

WHEREAS, California has the infrastructure already in place as an appropriate unmanned aircraft vehicle test site, including the airspace necessary for testing, using existing and proven test ranges, world class educational institutions, a highly educated workforce, and associated technology; and

WHEREAS, California is also home to the largest expected release of deployed military personnel who could seamlessly transition from their military deployment into many of the civilian and defense-related jobs created by the unmanned aircraft test industry; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the FAA is urged to consider California as one of the six test sites for unmanned aircraft systems and integration of those systems into the next generation air transportation system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly submit copies of this resolution to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, the

United States Secretary of Transportation, each member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives from California, and the author for appropriate distribution.

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